

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02569 251151Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01
IO-14 AID-05 /102 W
-----064245 251352Z /43
R 251046Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7759

UNCLAS COLOMBO 2569

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: POST-ELECTION POLITICAL VIOLENCE

1. OVER THE WEEKEND POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE SPREAD IN SEVERAL PART OS THE COUNTRY DESPITE PRIOR SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTS AS MANY AS 30 PEOPLE HAVING BEEN KILLED. MOBS HAVE ATTACKED HOUSES AND PRIVATE BUSINESS PLACES, HAVE SEIZED TRUCKS AND BUSES, AND HAVE DEMONSTRATED AGAINST SUPPORTERS OF RIVAL POLITICAL PARTIES. MUCH OF THE VIOLENCE APPEARS TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST UNP ADHERENTS. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE REPORTS OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING TAMILS IN KALKUDAH AND MANNAR, THESE APPEAR TO BE POLITICAL AND NOT COMMUNAL VIOLENCE. ONE FORMER MP (SLFP), D.M. JAYARATNE, FROM GAMPOLA HAS BEEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH A SHOOTING INCIDENT IN WHICH TWO UNP SUPPORTERS REPORTEDLY WERE KILLED AND SEVERAL INJURED.

2. JAYEWARDENE'S GOVERNMENT, ACTING QUICKLY, IMPOSED STRIDENT SECURITY MEASURES, INCLUDING IMPOSING A CURFEW IN THE AFFECTED AREAS: MATALE, KANDY, KEGALLE, MANNAR, AND MAHIYANGANA ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND COLOMBO AGA DIVISIONS DIVULAPITIYA, MINUWANGODA, AND NITTANBUWA. IN A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE PM'S OFFICE ON JULY 24, ALL TAVERNS, LIQUOR STORES, AND BARS
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THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND WERE ORDERED CLOSED AND ALL PROCESSIONS BANNED UNLESS A POLICE PERMIT IS OBTAINED. NO PERSONS MAY BE TRANSPORTED BY LORRY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF MOTOR TRANSPORT, AND PERSONS COMMANDEERING PUBLIC TRANSPORT HAVE BEEN PROMISED SWIFT JUSTICE. THE ARMED SERVICES ARE DEPLOYED TO ASSIST THE POLICE IN MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER, AND ALL GOVERNMENT AND STATE CORPORATION EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN

ASSURED OF PROTECTION.

3. THIS CURRENT WAVE OF VIOLENCE WAS NOT UNEXPECTED AND IS ATTRIBUTABLE MORE TO THE EXUBERANCE OF SUPPORTERS OF THE WINNING PARTY IN THE AFFECTED AREAS; THERE IS NO THREAT OF ORGANIZED POLITICAL VIOLENCE. WITH THE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS ON JULY 25 AND THE RESUMPTION OF NORMAL WORK SCHEDULED FOLLOWING THE LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND, WE EXPECT LIFE IN SRI LANKA TO RETURN TO NORMAL WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

PERKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, MARTIAL LAW, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770264-0795
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770724/aaaaauja.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, PORS, CE
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